

URBAN DISTRICT OF AMLWCH.

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year



- 1 9 5 0 -

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

AMLIUCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1 9 5 0 .

Chairman of the Council:-

Councillor O.T.Jones.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:-

Councillor H.Williams.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:-

Councillor H.Williams.

Members of the Public Health Committee:-

Councillor H.Hughes
Councillor Elias Jones
Councillor J.Mathias
Councillor Ll. Owen
Councillor William Owen
Councillor G.Pritchard
Councillor J.R.Roberts.
Councillor D.H.Rowlands

Medical Officer of Health:-

Until 30.9.50 R.O.Jones M.B., Ch.B.

From 1.10.50 G.H.B.Roberts M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:-

A.Healy.

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee,
Amlwch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairmen and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report upon the Health of your District for the year 1950.

The three most important occurrences in the District during the year under review are, each in its own way historic for the community, - two of them being closely related to one another, providing, as they do, services that are complementary, - if not actually essentially parallel, - to each other.

I refer firstly to the degree of progress made towards the finalisation of the main sewerage scheme. The scheme is already in part-operation, in that two large schools in the area are connected up to a sea outfall by gravity discharge. This state of progress must be indeed heartening to those members of the Council, and to my predecessor (Dr. R.O.Jones) who have striven for so long to achieve a service that is now long regarded, not as an "outstanding service", but, as an essential requisite of a modern community.

It is greatly anticipated that the House connection sewerage scheme will be well under way by the end of 1951. It should, of course, be borne in mind that this District contains a small community whose rateable value on March 31st of 1950 was assessed at only £10,665. A Sanitary Authority of such a size would most probably be unable to bear the burden, unaided, of the cost of a House Connection Scheme in addition to the pre-existent financial responsibilities connected with the main sewerage scheme.

In the event of that Grant not being forthcoming to an appreciable degree, it is feared that the Council's Main Sewerage Scheme will be very largely brought to negation by their inability to put the scheme into that extent of operation that the needs of the community have urgently needed for long past.

The second historic occurrence of the year (referred to above as being complementary to the Sewerage Scheme) was that of the Water Mains laying Scheme undertaken by the County Council as the County Water Authority. The water supplied so far, is derived from a borehole whose productivity of the past can not be regarded as being likely to satisfy the needs of the future. Obviously, with the progressive (and may we hope - rapid) bringing into operation of the greatly anticipated House Sewerage Connection Scheme there will (or should) be an exactly corresponding increase in the use of mains water supply from a centralised source. For this reason it is greatly hoped that no unforeseen delays will arise in connection with the provision of water from the Maenaddfwyn source.

The third historic "happening" of the year concerns the commencement of the erection of the buildings required by a large industrial concern whose presence in the district may bring benefits whose magnitude can not at present be fully visualised either so far as it concerns the District or the County.

This industrialisation may, perhaps, disturb some peoples' tranquility, if not equanimity, but it should outstrip that activity lost many years since, with the closure of the Copper Mines. At the present time this community largely exists upon its comparatively small tobacco factories, its agriculture is t about one half of its territory, and the fact that it is both a main shopping centre for North and North West Anglesey as well as being a Railhead and an omnibus terminus.

It is gratifying to realise that the Gwirth Hills Housing Scheme, aimed at the erection of 92 houses, is making better progress. It should of course be realised, that the 28 houses to be completed in the first two years plan can represent but a small re-housing creation compared to the large number of families that are known to live in houses there, if not actually fit for condemnation by modern standards of living, at any rate substandard. It should be realised that the fact that a house is fit for condemnation is in no way governed by new house replacement. Or in other words a house is, or is not, fit for human habitation no matter how adequate, or inadequate, the number representing the new building programme may be. In the event of the Minister ordering a Housing Survey it is quite possible that according to his scale of standards, a large number of Amlwch houses would be found to be beyond repair, taking into account present day repair costs, and national building material shortages. On the other hand replacement schemes are a big burden for small communities.

The vital statistics pertaining to this last year call for no particular comment, beyond the fact that there were no recorded deaths from Tuberculosis, nor were there any Maternal Deaths.

In any small community, such as this, too much attention should not be focussed upon the Rates of Incidence, owing to the fact that small fluctuations in actual numbers may produce apparently wide changes in those Rates of occurrence. However, Rates are quoted in this report largely because of custom.

The single case of Infantile Paralysis occurred in a child who had obviously carried the infection into the District from without.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and members for their welcome to me when I took over my present post at the end of the year. I am also very grateful to my predecessor - Dr. R.O. Jones - for his ready promise of any assistance that I might need, and also to the Clerk and Officer of the Council for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. B. ROBERTS

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	4,062
Population (Registrar General's Mid. 1950 Estimate)	2,793
Rateable Value (on 31.3.50.)	£10,665
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£41 - 2 - 4d.
Number of Rateable Premises	10,090 1,090

VITAL STATISTICS.Live Births (Actual Occurrences)

	1949			1950		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	13	17	30	25	14	39
Illegitimate	0	1	1	2	1	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	13	18	31	27	15	42
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Birth Rates (Total)

	1949	1950
Amlwch	11.43 (Corrected)	15.5 (Corrected)
England and Wales	16.47	15.8

Still Births.

Male 1.
Female Nil.

Still Birth Rate

Crude 0.36/1000 pop: Rate / 1000 births (live and still) 21.7
Corrected 0.43
England and Wales 0.37

Deaths.

Male	24
Female	20
—	—
TOTAL	44
—	—

Death Rates.

Crude 15.7 / 1000 pop:
Corrected 12.2
England and Wales 11.6
Maternal Nil.

Deaths under One Year of Age.

Legitimate	Nil.
Illegitimate	Nil

Deaths under Four Weeks of Age (Neonatal)

Legitimate	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm (breast)	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm (others)	3	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	3
Coronary disease, Angina	2	2
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	3
Other Heart Diseases	2	3
Other circulatory Diseases	1	-
Influenza	2	-
Bronchitis	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Other Diseases	2	-
Accidents	1	1
	24	20

There were no deaths reported as from Tuberculosis.

Comparability Figures.

It can be readily appreciated that the age and sex composition of a community can, and do, very materially affect both the number of births and the number of deaths occurring, in that community. For example - a "Retired Persons' Resort" would have a high death rate, whereas a new Industrial Town should have a higher birth rate. In order to make useful comparisons of rates between districts (perhaps very remote from one another) each district is accorded "Comparability Figures" for births and for deaths which when multiplied by the Crude rate per 1,000 of the population gives the Corrected Rate.

The relative figures for 1950 for Amlwch are

Births - 1.02
Deaths - 0.78

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (excluding tuberculosis)

Table showing cases notified during the year, classified in age groups.

Disease	1-4yrs	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-44	45-64	65&over.
Scarlet Fever	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	4	-	-	-	-	5
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

Vaccination and Immunisation.

These protections against respectively smallpox and diphtheria in infancy, are mostly carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinic (run by the County Health Authority) although, of course, parents are at liberty to have their children protected privately when they so desire. Immunisation against diphtheria from the age of 5 years onward is the charge of the School Medical Service, but of course, depends largely upon (amongst other factors) the consent and cooperation of the individual parents. The fact that this District has suffered no case of diphtheria during 1950 should in no way soothe the parental mind into negligence.

This remark is of even greater import in relation to smallpox vaccination, owing to the incidence of home coming mariners from smallpox infected ports overseas.

No. of Immunisations carried out.

0 - 4 yrs.			5 - 15 yrs.			TOTAL		
Population	No. Immunised	%	Population	No. Immunised	%	Population	No. Immunised	%
209	135	63.9	408	401	98.2	617	534	86.5

VACCINATIONS.

Total 65 of which 54 were primary protections.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

Premises	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	19	-	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)				

No statutory defects were detected.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Nuisances

No. of complaints received	134
No. of visits made	134
No. of re-visits made	318
No. of nuisances found	325
No. of Informal notices served	15
No. of Statutory notices served	4
No. of Nuisances abated by Informal Action	330
No. of Nuisances abated by Statutory Action	5

Housing Acts

No. of premises inspected	15
No. of premises in which families rehoused	3
Further actions deferred pending availability of new houses.	
New houses constructed	4
New houses under Construction	28
New houses contemplated additional to above and sited	64

The houses shown as 28 and 64 are being erected in 4 stages on Graith Mills Estate. The 28 represent the first stage.

The general standard of Housing Accommodation is very poor and a complete survey of the entire district should be made as soon as circumstances permit. A considerable amount of Slum Clearance under this Act is required and individual unfit properties will require major treatment under Section 9 but some adjustment in Rent Restrictions calls for urgent consideration.

Rents in this district show great variance in that a post-war Council 3 Bedroom parlour house costs 27/4d per week inclusive. The major portion of the older private houses are let at rents varying from 3 or 4 shillings per week upwards.

Officials desirous of enforcing Statutory regulations find their hands tied because rents are uneconomic and repairs today are a very serious problem. The matter does call for urgent deliberations by the Minister of Health as to how far the Department are prepared to grant assistance in these matters. Some form of acquisition by the local authority and grant aided repairs through this medium is a matter which is long over due. The burden inflicted on local authorities and ratepayers by erecting new houses is such that a complete investigation into this problem should be the subject of a Royal Commission.

Many of the houses under consideration could be made habitable for a period of 25 years at a cost in the region of £600. Rents might then be preserved at a reasonable level.

Under normal conditions wages in this district average £6 per week, new houses average 27/4d per week whilst it is appreciated that good houses are essential, the danger of good houses at the expense of malnutrition must not be overlooked and the average labourer with a family of 3 children cannot afford such rents.

Sewers - Drainage:

The Council's main sewerage scheme which was commenced in July 1949 and the completion of such is anticipated by June 1951.

The Council have not yet considered the question of conversions under Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936 but consideration of this is anticipated early in 1951.

The new County Grammer School in course of erection and of which part was opened in September is connected to the scheme. This length discharges at a sea outfall close to the discharging point of the Afon Goch.

The Primary School which has also been extended during the year by additional classrooms and modern canteen facilities has also been converted to the main sewer.

Conversion of the 18 Pail Closets now in use for the pupils has been delayed by reason of difficulties in delivery of the fittings, this conversion is being urgently pressed by the appropriate body and is anticipated early in 1951.

The conservancy system of sewage disposal is practised through the built up areas of the Town and Port districts. Pails are emptied and replaced between the hours of 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. on six nights per week. Collections are disposed of at the Council's refuse tip and buried under the next days collection of refuse. These areas are all collected weekly.

Water.

Early in the year the Anglesey County Council completed their water mains laying scheme in the district. Water for this is derived from a Borehole at Bull Bay which is pumped via a 6" main to a 150,000 gallon reservoir situated in Pentrefelin, one of the highest points in the district. From here the water gravitates through the Town and Port by a series of mains. During the year in question 171 premises were connected to this system.

Enforcement of these supplies is not yet being pressed owing to drainage difficulties. Formerly the district was served by a series of shafts and single acting pumps, 12 samples of which were taken during the year, 5 were found to give satisfactory results.

During the year the Council took action in respect of these and abolished 6 pumps in the built up areas and replaced these by standpipes adjacent to the old well point.

The two primary schools at Amlwch and Amlwch Port are also connected to the scheme. In this respect costs again appear to retard the ready and voluntary installation of piped water to premises. The County levy a charge of £9.10.0 for the initial connection and it might cost as much as £20 to just bring the supply to the rear entrance of the premises. Such costs are much higher when sink and drainage provisions are taken into account.

The wells in the rural areas of the district are visited at regular intervals and cleaned out frequently.

Extensions of the mains water scheme are not contemplated within the near future.

Farms - Cowsheds:

Thirteen Cowsheds were inspected during the year, the standard with 2 exceptions being poor. The two exceptions were in one case, the farmer was aiming for a graded milk and the other improvements were being effected.

No complaints in respect of milk quality were received during the year.

Refuse Disposal:

The domestic refuse collected in the district was up to this year done by open lorry. In January the Council decided to purchase a standard type sliding covered vehicle for this purpose and delivery was made in May.

A weekly collection of refuse is made at all premises within the built up areas whilst parts of the rural areas are collected fortnightly and a monthly service to the distant rural areas.

With the introduction of the new vehicle more bins have been brought into use. The Council's own houses numbering 92 receiving proper receptacles for the first occasion.

A complete system of standard refuse receptacles if required at all premises but again, this has been deferred on the grounds of cost and difficulties of delivery.

Some controlled tipping is exercised in disposal of products collected.

Food Inspection:

There are no slaughterhouses in the district and the meat purveyors are supplied from the Central Slaughterhouse at Llengfrith. Periodic checks are made from time to time to ascertain the quality of the meat delivered, to date this has been satisfactory.

The delivery vehicle has been improved by reason of notices from the Health Department calling for more adequate protection of carcasses in transit. Hooks have been fitted for the slinging of sides, fore and hind, gratings in the floor of the vehicle were also fitted and carriers provided with suitable coverings when transferring their deliveries.

No further complaints were received in this respect after the Department's action.

The general standard of cleanliness and hygiene in butchers shops and refrigerators is very good indeed.

The number of visits made to other Food Shops and Restaurants during the year was 63.

One large Grocers shop was the recipient of a notice relevant to the provision of Secondary access for the removal of night soil by means other than through the shop. This was executed and new conveniences built for both sexes, preparing for the future water closets. Water heating and washing facilities were also provided.

Similarly another grocer's shop was so notified and whilst the work has been given out it has not yet been accomplished. Whilst the standard of cleanliness is very good in all the food shops there yet remains much to be done and the introduction of mains water drainage and sanitation will bring about the solving of many other problems not the least of which is the concreting of flats yards and passages, to assist in maintaining hygienic standards.

Informal notices were served on most of the licensed premises and this has resulted in the installation of mains water to all of these premises. A very good response has been received from the Brewers in relation to improved sanitary facilities under Section 39 and 89 of the Public Health Act 1936. In one case works have been actually commenced; in all others - plans are in process of preparation to satisfy the needs of the Justices and Councils.

It will be appreciated that the time for enforcement of piped water into all food preparing premises is not yet opportune, because whilst this is very urgent and desirable, there remains the problem of waste water disposal and the very inadequate drainage which must exist, until the whole of the mains drainage and conversion schemes are executed.

Offices:

During the year an additional water closet apartment was built for the Female members of the staff engaged at Trehinon. This brought the building into conformity with section 46 of the Public Health Act 1936.

Factories - Bakehouses.

The district has 3 small tobacco factories in which a small number of men and boys are employed. There is also a small paint works employing 4 people.

Three garages and one boot repairing factory complete the number and sanitary accommodation is of the Pail type which is emptied by the Council's refuse squad. Standards are fair.

There are three bakehouses employing approximately 2 persons in each. They are very good and cleanliness standards are well maintained. Visits are made quarterly.

Infectious Diseases.

Disinfections by Formaline Lamps. Bedding to Isolation Hospital as necessary.

Disinfestation.

No great amount of complaints made except in relation to cockroaches at certain properties.

Gammexane Dust Blower were purchased for this purpose and other members of the Public will be assisted on receipt of complaint.

One bakehouse has been treated in this respect with very good results.

Rodent Control:

This was operated by a joint body of the authorities in the County. From December onwards the Council will operate this as a unit of their Sanitary Inspectors Office.

Summary

The year has been one of progress in the right direction whilst much remains to be accomplished, time will bring about correction of the many anomalies which now exist. Staffing problems are not the least of the Authority's trouble and if any general survey is contemplated some form of temporary help will need to be acquired.

A. HEALY
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.



